やくならマグカップも
1
YAKUNARA MUG CUP MO
A story, set in Tajimi, about high school girls and the Togei-bu, pottery club.
FREE MANGA

Genkina Tajimi Project "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo"

Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine. "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a free publication put out by a group of people who love Tajimi. We call it "Kurukuru Rokuro Manga."

The city of Tajimi, located in the southern part of Gifu Prefecture, Japan, is famous for Mino earthenware. The city is dotted with historical pottery producers and ceramic art museums. It has facilities where you can try your hand at making pottery, and many restaurants that serve food on Minoware dishes.

The story begins when a high school girl moves to a shopping street in Tajimi. Many encounters await her, friends, town folk, ceramic art, etc. What will she discover in a town famous for ceramics?

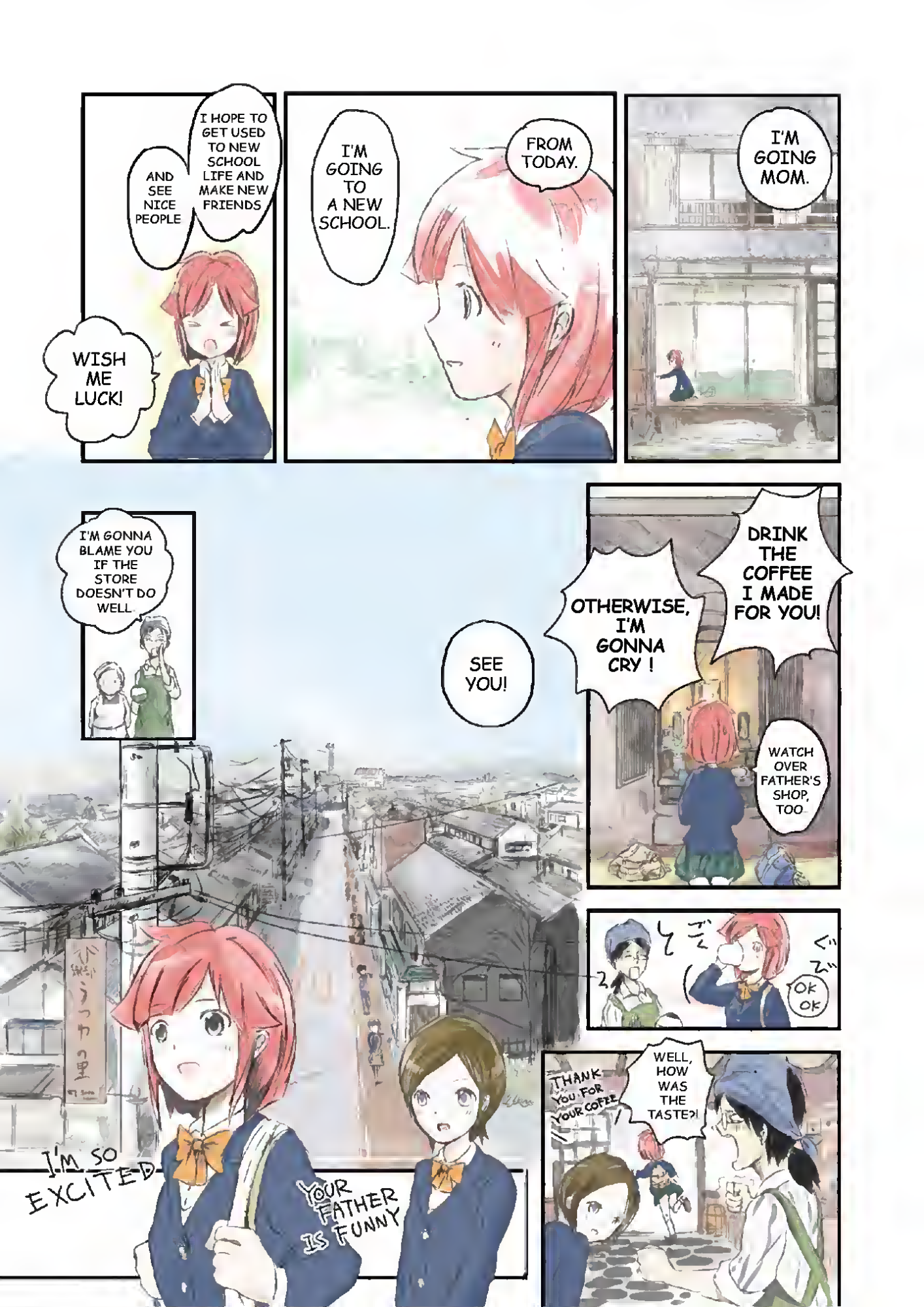
"Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a collaborative work by many people involved with Tajimi's pottery culture. Like it's main characters, "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" will develop slowly. We invite you to watch it grow.

Yakunara Mug Cup Mo staff

EPISODE 01

Himeno begins pottery-making.

HIMENOOO! NAO-CHAN IS HERE!
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
トン
トン
OK HAVE SOME COMMEM-ORATIVE COFFEE.
IT'LL BRING YOU GOOD LUCK.
WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE.
I HOPE TO GET USED TO A NEW SCHOOL LIFE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.
OH.
I JUST RMEM-BERED

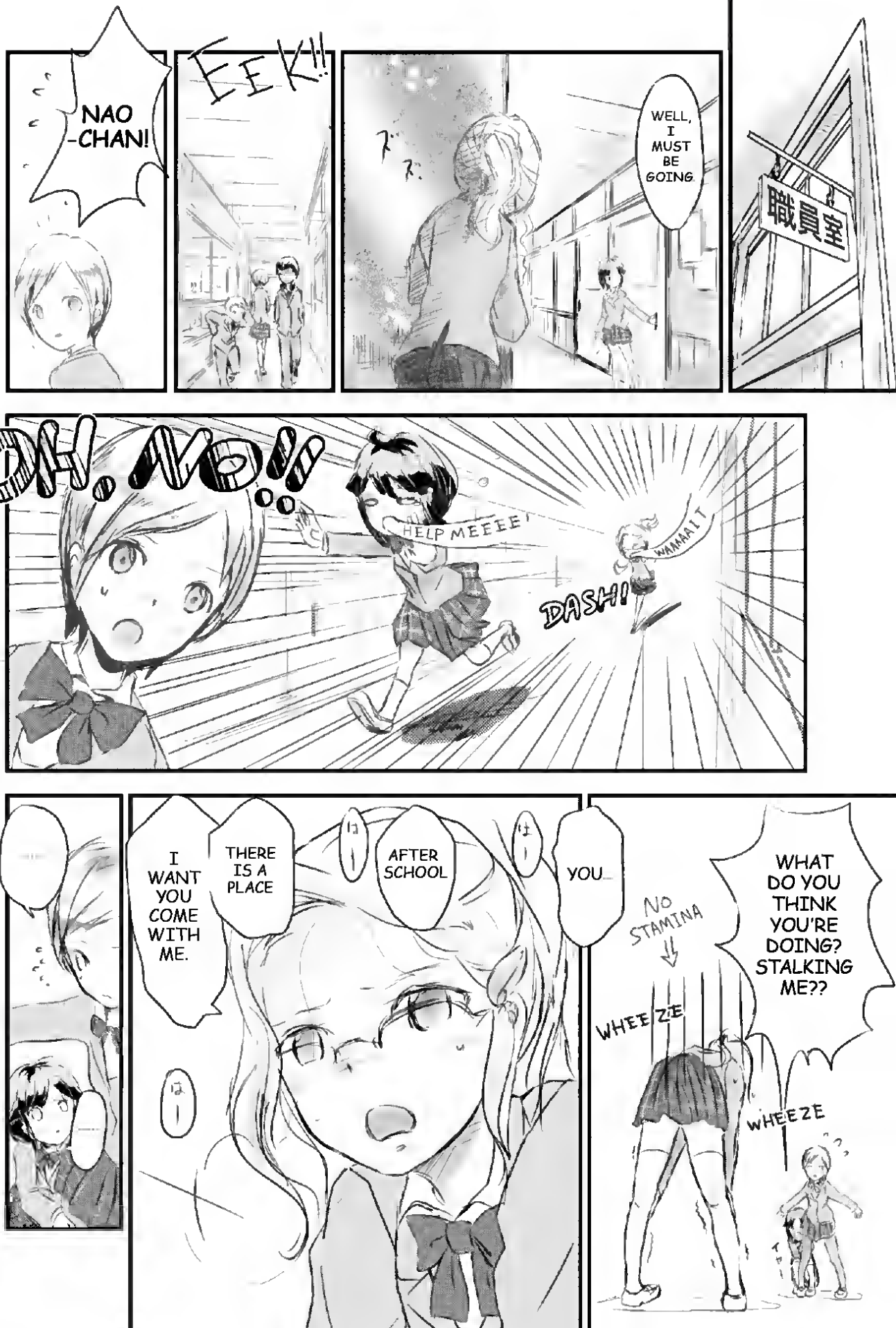

I HOPE TO GET USED TO NEW SCHOOL LIFE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS
AND SEE NICE PEOPLE
WISH ME LUCK!
I'M GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL.
FROM TODAY.
I'M GOING MOM.
I'M GONNA BLAME YOU IF THE STORE DOESN'T DO WELL.
SEE YOU!
OTHERWISE, I'M GONNA CRY !
DRINK THE COFFEE I MADE FOR YOU!
WATCH OVER FATHER'S SHOP, TOO.
OK OK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COFFEE
WELL, HOW WAS THE TASTE?!
I'M SO EXCITED
YOUR FATHER IS FUNNY

I'M TOYO-KAWA HIME-NO.
AFTER MY MOM DIED MY FATHER DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO.
SO WE MOVED TO MY MOTER'S HOME.
I LOOK FOR-WARD TO GET-TING TO KNOW YOU.
HI HIME-NO-SAN, YOUR FATHER HAS JUST STARTED HIS SHOP OR SOMETHING, HASN'T HE?
THANK YOU FOR SAYING THAT!
TAHAA DAAAA
CLINK
CLINK

IT'S SERIOUS THAT THEIR LIVELIHOOD HANGS ON IT
BEAUTIFL CUPS
I WANT TO ASK HER OUT FOR LUNCH
MY FATHER HAS OPENED A CAFÉ ON ORIBE STREET.
SPECIALTIES ARE COFFEE CUPS, DELICIOUS COFFEE, AND MY FATHER! PLEASE COME AND ENJOY THEM!
カーン キーン コーン コーン
I WAS SO NERVOUS FOR NOTHING
AH AAAAAA...
WHAT A NICE CLASS
THANK YOU MUM
MY FATHER HAS AN EEL RESTAURANT NEAR BY COME NEXT TIME
OF COURSE! WE HAVE MANY THINGS BESIDES COFFEE
COFFEE DOESN'T SUIT ME, BUT CAN I STILL GO TO THE SHOP?
IT USED TO BE A GENERAL GOODS SHOP IT'S BEEN RENOVATED RECENTLY
THE SHOP? I MAY KNOW THAT PLACE
YES
WHAT? DO YOU?

OH, TOYO-KAWA HIMENO -SAN.
COME AND SEE ME IN THE TEACHERS' ROOM DURING THE NEXT RECESS, PLEASE.
TH
GRAB
YES TEACHER
TO... KIKAWA
HIME NA?
キーンコーンカーンコーン
THIS IS!!!
OH!!

WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?
HEY, YOU!
ME!?
NOD
KUKURI -SAN!
PLEASE WAIT I'M TOO BUSY FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
NOOOOOO!!
THE CLASS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
KUKURI -SAN. BE QUIET!
I'M SURE SHE SAID TOKIKAWA HIMENA A LITTLE WHILE AGO AND THOSE CUPS
SHE'S STARING AT ME.
GETTING IRRITATED
ストン


NAO-CHAN!
EEK!!
WELL, I MUST BE GOING.
職員室
OH, NO!!
HELP MEEEE!
WAIIIT
DASH!
I WANT YOU COME WITH ME.
THERE IS A PLACE
AFTER SCHOOL
YOU_
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? STALKING ME??
NO STAMINA
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

STEP
STEP
WELCOME TO THE TOGEI-BU!
ISN'T THIS A NICE PLACE?
I'M SORRY, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE QUIET.
SH... BE QUIET.
WHAT?

EXCUSE ME, TOKO SENPAI!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHO I BROUGHT!
BAAAAAN!
GUESS WHO IT IS!
LOOK! TOKO -SENPAI, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

I BROUGHT TOKIKAWA HIMENA -SAN!
TO... TOKI- KAWA
HIME ...NA?
WELL
MIKA -CHAN
SHH! DON'T DISTURB ME!
YOU'VE ALREADY MADE IT!
WOW! HOW FAST!
SHE IS GREAT.

TO-GEI-BU, I SEE.
TO

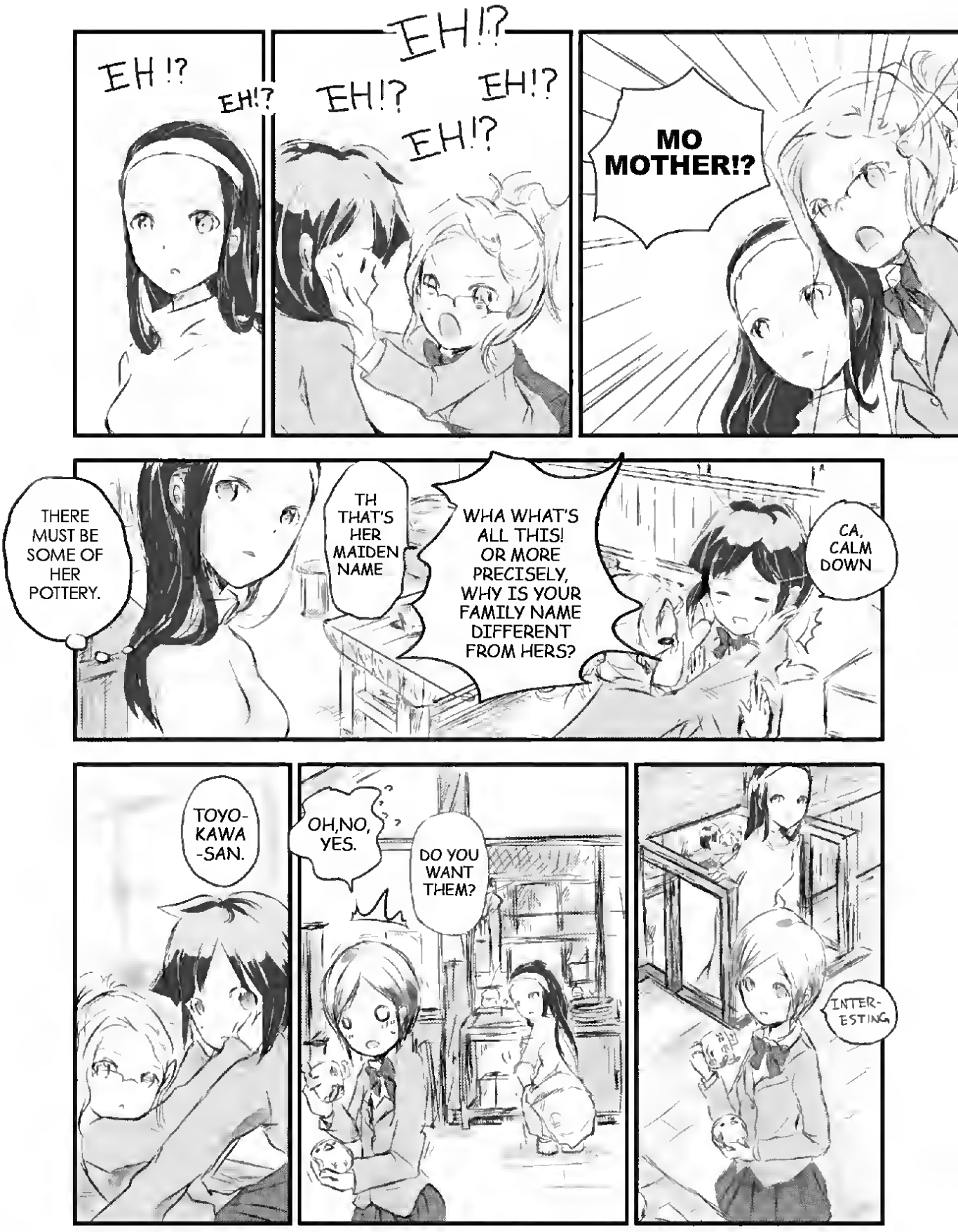
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD MAKE A BOWL LIKE THAT.

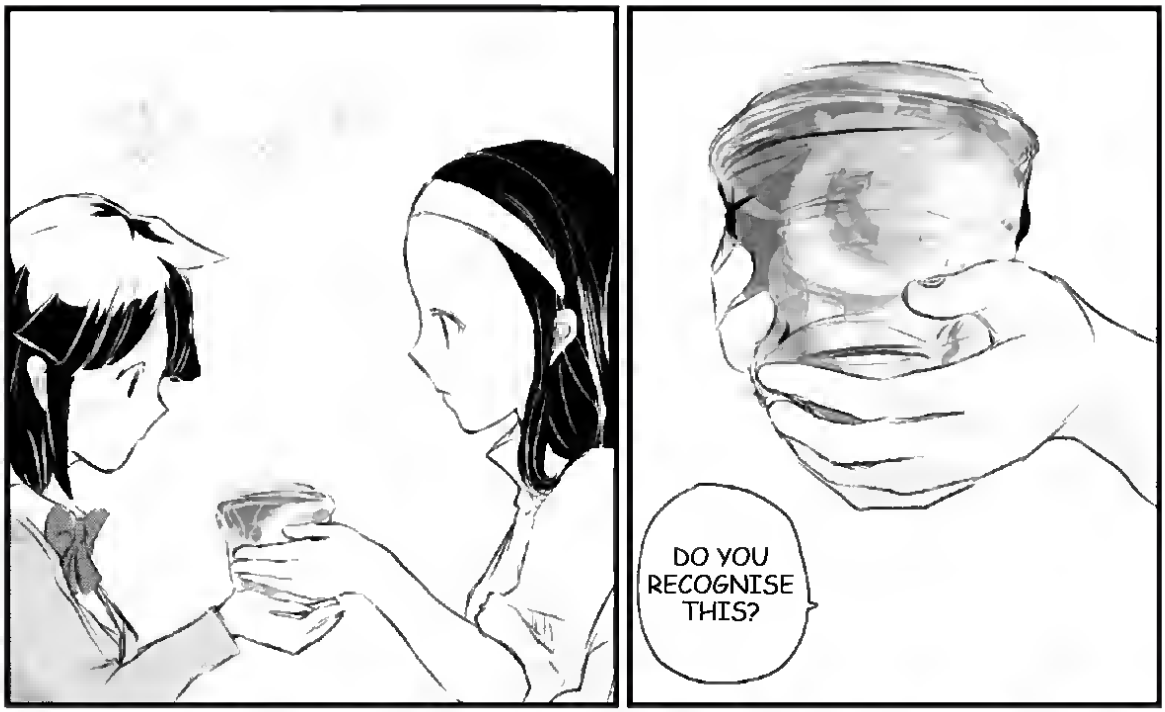
IT IS NO USE TO HIDE!
HU
HU
HU
THERE YOU GO AGAIN. DON'T PLAY DUMB.

BECAUSE I, MIKA, KNOW IT!
YOU'RE THE POTTER, TOKIKAWA HIMENA, WRAPPED IN A VEIL OF MYSTERY.

I AM .....
TOYO-KAWA HIME-NO

WHAAT? BUT SURELY THIS MORN-ING!
TO-YO-KA-WA HI-ME-NO.
I'M TELLLING YOU YOU'RE TOKIKAWA HIMENA
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE DOES TOGEI.
SHE . THIS IS MY IMPRES-SION.
えい
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
TOKI-KAWA HIMENA IS MY MOTH-ER'S NAME.
SEE!? LOOK! AT THIS!
WELL, WELL
YOU ARE HALF A SLEEP AGAIN AND MISUNDER-STANDING THINGS
ER
MY NAME IS HIME-NO, BUT


EH!?
EH!?
EH!?
EH!?
EH!?
EH!?
MO MOTHER!?
THERE MUST BE SOME OF HER POTTERY.
TH THAT'S HER MAIDEN NAME
WHA WHAT'S ALL THIS! OR MORE PRECISELY, WHY IS YOUR FAMILY NAME DIFFERENT FROM HERS?
CA, CALM DOWN
TOYO-KAWA -SAN.
OH,NO, YES.
DO YOU WANT THEM?
INTER-ESTING


DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS?

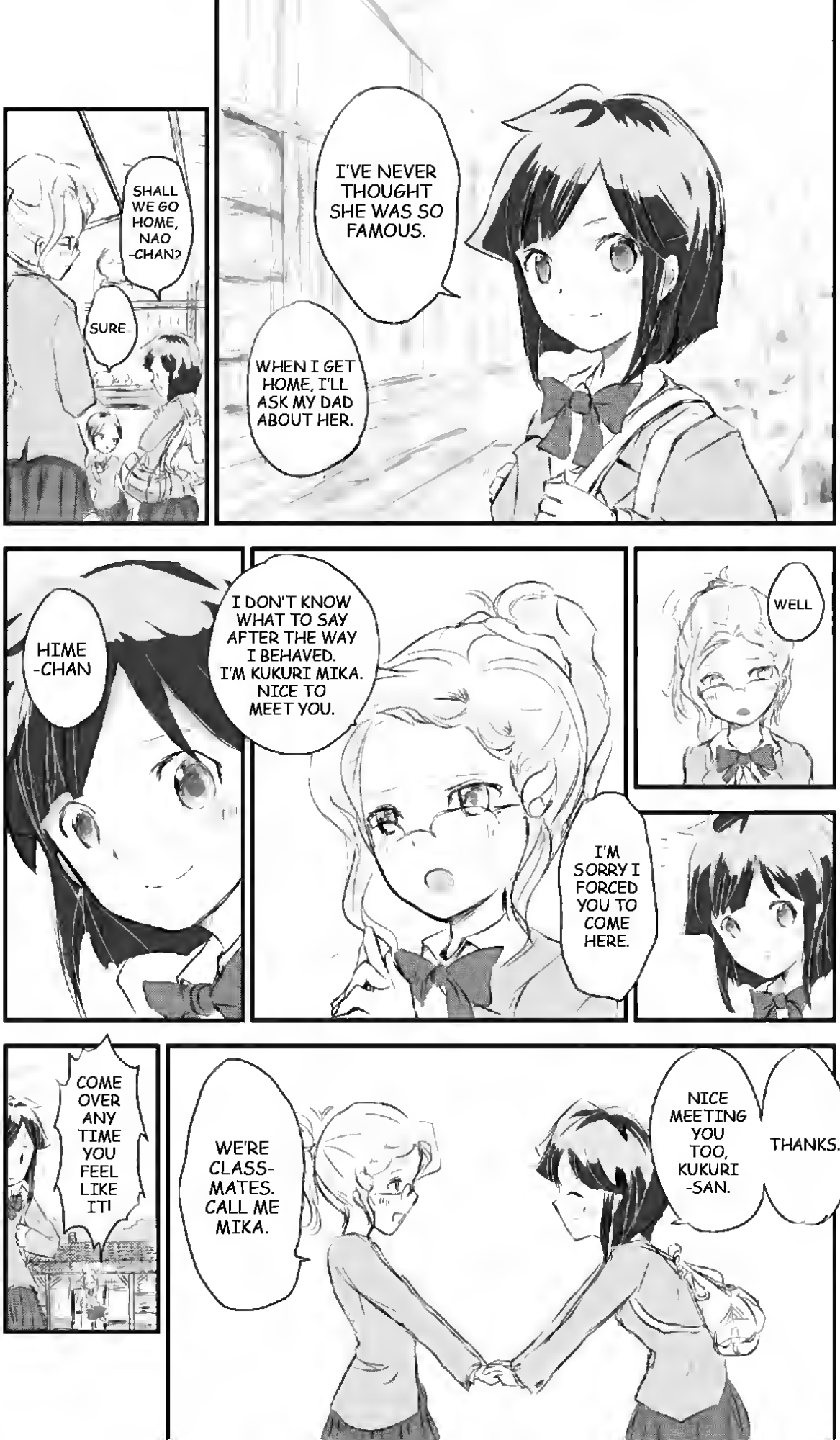
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE ONE I HAVE AT HOME...
...!

TOKIKAWA HIMENA IS QUITE FAMOUS.
IT'S MANIAC
LOOK
特集 まぼろしの作家
土岐川姫菜
うつわの中に映る世界

THE CERAMIC I JUST SHOWED YOU IS...
NO. I DON'T.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT?
THOUGH IT IS VERY BEAUTIFUL WORK,
ONLY HER NAME IS WELL KNOWN.
I REMEMBER PLAYING WITH CLAY WITH MY MOTHER A LITTLE...
IS THAT.....
HIME-CHAN WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
DADDY
YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR DAD, DON'T YOU?
DADDY
THAT REMINDS ME... WHEN I WAS A CHILD...
THE THINGS IN OUR CLUB-ROOM WERE BROUGHT BY OUR ADVISER.

EVEN IF SAID
HUM...
I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'RE THE REAL PERSON THE LAST THING THAT I EXPECTED WAS SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER.
LET'S MAKE SOME-THING!
OH YEAH!
HA HA HA
IS THAT SO?
GOOD. NOT EVERYONE CAN BE THE DAUGTER OF A FMOUS POTTER.
IF SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT TO DO SOMETHING, DON'T MAKE THEM!
TOKO-SEN-PAI, YOU WANT TO SEE HER WORK, DON'T YOU? SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF TOKIKAWA HIMENA!
WHAT? I... POTTERY...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?
IF YOU'RE TOKIKAWA HIMENA'S DAUGHTER, YOU COULD PROBABLY DO IT!

I WANT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER!
I'VE GOT IT!
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW.
SHE DIED WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
IT'S IM-POSSI-BLE
.....
MIKA -CHAN
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT
WHY? YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT? WHAT?
?? SHE DID !?
THAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A CHILD, AND I DON'T REMENBER MUCH ABOUT HER.
I'M OKAY.
I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD.
I AM SORRY, TOYO-KAWA -SAN.

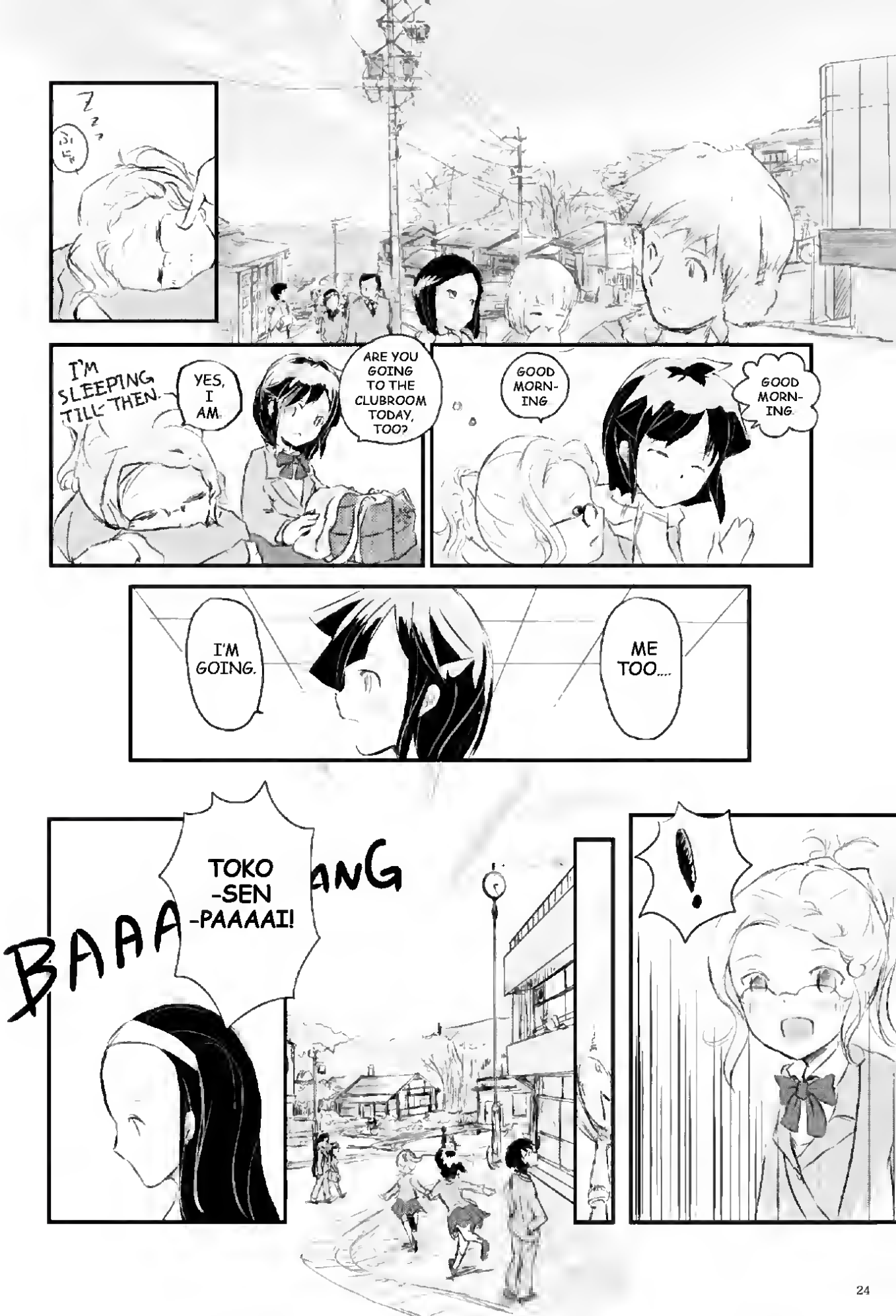

SHALL WE GO HOME, NAO -CHAN?
SURE
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS SO FAMOUS.
WHEN I GET HOME, I'LL ASK MY DAD ABOUT HER.
HIME -CHAN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY AFTER THE WAY I BEHAVED. I'M KUKURI MIKA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
WELL
I'M SORRY I FORCED YOU TO COME HERE.
COME OVER ANY TIME YOU FEEL LIKE IT!
WE'RE CLASS-MATES. CALL ME MIKA.
NICE MEETING YOU TOO, KUKURI -SAN.
THANKS.

NAO-CHAN, DON'T YOU DO ANY CLUB ACTIVITIES?
ER I
HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?
IT'S FUN. AND PERFECTLY I TOLD PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR SHOP.
AND THEN, I MADE FUNNY FRIENDS.
HOW'S YOUR SHOP?
SO-SO.
So-so?
NOTHING GOES WITHOUT ME
WAS MY MOTHER A GREAT POTER?

WHY DO YOU ASK?
SPOUT OUT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SORRY
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ABOUT HER MUCH.
DISGUSTING
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED AND OVER REACTING?
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIMENO ANYTHING ABOUT HER AT ALL?
EH? IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT!
MOST CUPS USED AT THIS SHOP WERE MADE BY HIMENA.
IT'S A LONG STORY IT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WE CHILD
IT'S BEEN ROUGH FOR ME TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED
WELL THEN, WHY DID YOU MOVE TO THIS TOWN?

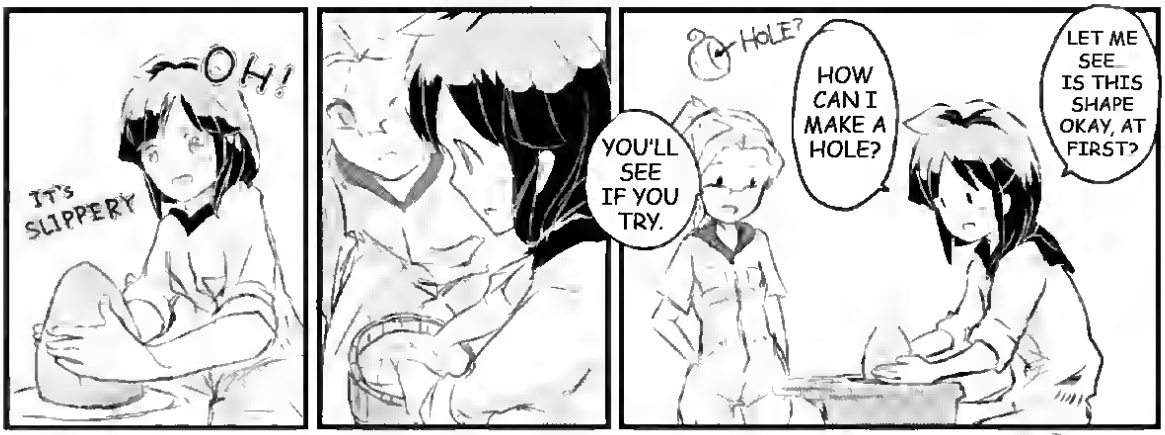
SLIDE
YES!
WHAT?
DO YOU WANT TO SEE HER BEST WORKS UPSTAIRS?
ALL THESE?
YES
DO YOU LIKE IT?
THIS IS SO BEAUTI-FUL

I HEARD ABOUT MY MOTHER THERE.
TODAY I WENT TO THE TO-GEI-BU.
AND I FEEL VERY WARM.
IT'S BEAU-TIFUL
YES.
IF I'M HER CHILD, I WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.
SEEING THESE WORKS, I FEEL LIKE MAKING SOMETHING.
A, AND SUPPORT ME BY BECOMING A FAMOUS POTTER.
OH MY!
YOU SHOULD DO IT.
ALL RIGHT. IF YOU THINK SO.

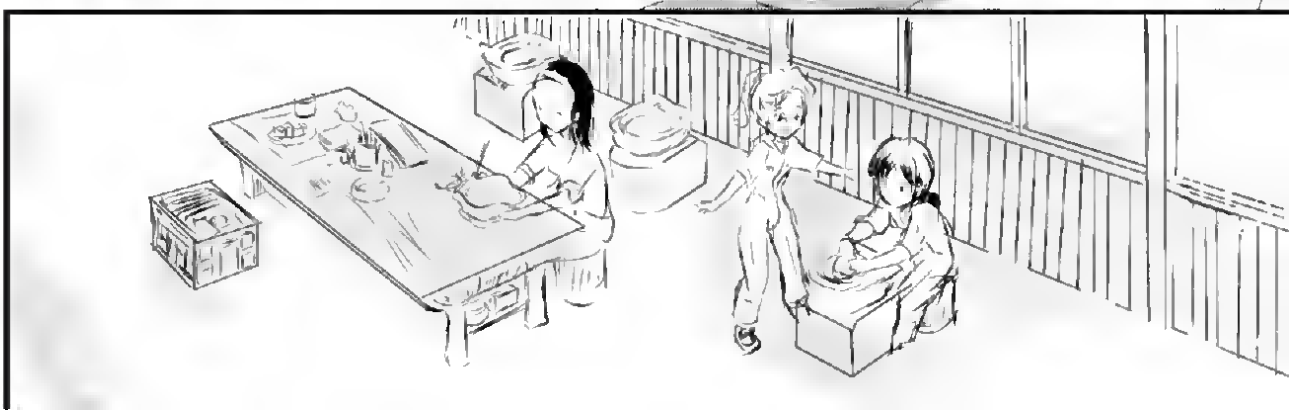

Z z z
I'M SLEEPING TILL THEN.
YES, I AM.
ARE YOU GOING TO THE CLUBROOM TODAY, TOO?
GOOD MORN-ING
GOOD MORN-ING
I'M GOING.
ME TOO....
BAAA ANG
TOKO -SEN -PAAAAI!
!

HE, HELLO.
YOU CAME
OH.
BUT FIX THE DOOR YOU JUST BROKE BY YOURSELF.
MKA-CHAN, IT'S OKAY TO BE FULL OF ENERGY.
I'M HERE
IS IT A BIT BIG FOR ME?
GREAT! IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
TOKO-SENPAI IS BIG
LEAV ME ALONE
WHAT DO YOU START WITH?
HOW ABOUT MAKING A HAND-TWISTED TEA CUP?
THAT ONE I WANT TO TRY TURNING A WHEEL.
ROUND & ROUND
OH, WELL. IT REQUIRES 50 YEARS OF TRAINING.
ROKURO
YOU ARE SO CASUAL ABOUT IT
WHAT!?

IT'S COLD.
ひゃ!
SLOWLY


OH!
IT'S SLIPPERY
HOLE?
HOW CAN I MAKE A HOLE?
YOU'LL SEE IF YOU TRY.
LET ME SEE... IS THIS SHAPE OKAY, AT FIRST?

CUT
TURNING, TURNING!!
WOOOW



REALLY? I THINK IT'S DONE VERY WELL.
YOU DIDN'T INHERIT YOUR MOM'S TALENT
じゃあん
SHE IS BETTER THAN YOU, ISN'T SHE?
NO, SHE IS NOT!!
APART FROM THE APPEARANCE, YOUR FEELINGS SHOW IN THIS WORK
IT IS OKAY

The panoramic view of Tajimi

TAJIMI Tajimi-city < Gifu-ken < Japan (Nihon)

Tajimi is located near the center of the Japanese Archipelago. With a population of 115,000, it is also central to the region. Tajimi is a city surrounded by abundant nature and mountains. It is easily accessed by Japan's three main metropolitan areas, the Chukyo area around Nagoya, the Kanto area around Tokyo, and the Kansai area around Osaka. Because it is surrounded by mountains, it is known as one of the hottest cities in Japan. Tajimi is blessed with high-quality clay and has a history over 1,000 years as the center of Japan's pottery industry. It has produced the most living national treasures in the pottery field.

Minoware potteries

The Tono district, including Tajimi-city, is renowned for pottery called "Minoware". Minoware accounts for over 50% of the market share in the domestic business, and the Tono district is the largest ceramic producer in Japan. Tajimi's pottery history can be traced back to the Nara period and its industry has lasted over 1,300 years. Momoyamato, a group name comprising 4 pottery styles, Shino, Ki-zeto, Seto-guro and Orihe, is one of Japan's major pottery industries. The techniques of Momoyamato have been passed down through the ages. The pottery culture blends into the community and local children have grown up with Minoware. Time for pottery making is provided in local community and school activities.

SHINO UZMAKIMON(scrolls)CHAWAN
(16th-17th century)
A photograph by "Tajimi Story"
(written by Teiichiro Hon
published by Yoka Tsusinsya)

High school students and club activities

In Japan, most junior and senior high schools have club activities called "Bukatsudo" in addition to classes. The students pursue what they are good at or are interested in through "Bukatsudo" with their seniors and juniors before classes early in the morning and after school. They work hard together to achieve their own goals: they participate in interschool games on behalf of schools, they take certifying examinations, or they exhibit their works.
"Bukatsudo" is a place where students train and share their school lives with other club members. They can make ties, cooperate, and practice mutual support in "Bukatsudo".

Togei-bu (pottery club)

In "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo," three out of the four main characters belong to the "Togei-bu." Each school has various club activities. Although a new club activity can be made if it is permitted, not many schools have a pottery related club in Japan because large-scale equipment is required. Though there are four senior high schools in Tajimi, only one has a pottery-related club such as Togei-bu. High schools in famous pottery producing areas all over Japan have pottery clubs.

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